

Simpor Pharma, Brunei's First Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant

Brunei Darussalam's first pharmaceutical manufacturing plant was officially established in September 2013 when a joint-investment was materialized between a Canadian firm Viva Pharmaceutical Inc, Strategic Development Capital Fund of the Ministry of Finance and a group of local investors. The US\$26 million manufacturing facility, occupying a 100,000 square foot site at the Salambigar Industrial Park aims to manufacture over-the-counter Halal pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products for both local consumption and the export market. Brunei Darussalam's geographical location is an advantage as the company aims to widen its market to the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East including the non-Muslim markets.



Simpor Pharma's manufacturing facility at Salambigar Industrial Park

The company's current facilities are capable of producing more than 40 million soft gelatin capsules per day and 50 million tablets per day while its R&D department has the capabilities and technologies to customize a formulation that suits any private label needs for all types of drinks. The company has produced more than 100 products including tablets, soft gel capsules and functional drinks which are available since November 2015 at local supermarkets like Hua Ho Department Stores, Jaya Hypermart and several branches of Guardian Pharmacy. Simpor has also successfully penetrated the export markets including China, United States and the Middle East.

The company is currently employing thirty (30) locals, of which ten (10) are management personnel and twenty (20) are support staff. Simpor Pharma is expected to employ between 150 -200 locals as it continues to expand. While foreign experts were brought in to train the local managers in the early stage, the firm is investing heavily in quality training and knowledge transfer to ensure long-term jobs are secured by Bruneians. These include quality control

managers, quality control technicians and research and development technicians. Several Bruneians were also sent for training at the Viva headquarters in Canada.



A Simpor Pharma technician working in the production facility

By leveraging on the strong reputation of Brunei Halal certification for the production of halal pharmaceuticals, the company is aiming to produce products that will cater to the market of 1.6 billion Muslim consumers worldwide. As an integrated contract manufacturer of health supplements, pharmaceutical products and cosmetics, Simpor Pharma is committed to product quality and safety by maintaining a good Quality Management System (QMS) compliance. Raw materials, semi-products and finished products are tested for compliance with specification. Attention to quality, cleanliness and compliance, through all stages of manufacturing is a critical corporate requirement for Simpor Pharma in demonstrating product effectiveness and safety.

The decision to invest in Brunei is also influenced by factors like the country's political stability, and transparent business practices or ideal geographical location to become a hub for exporting Halal pharmaceutical products and health supplements to the global market. To strengthen Simpor Pharma's performance, Viva which is known for its technology patents will ensure that the plant attains the highest quality manufacturing standards and high production yield. In addition, Brunei's strong and stringent Halal certification processes will add value and assurance to Muslim consumers worldwide that the company's products are of high quality, clean, safe and in compliance with all the relevant health and safety international standards.

Ministry of Finance